

Manufacturing Opportunities Shared Through “Makin’ It In Michigan” Initiative

What motivates students to prepare for their career choices? For some, it might be making a difference in society, earning top dollar or just doing something that they enjoy. This is the foundation of the new “Makin’ It In Michigan” initiative – showing students a way to do all that in one industry...Manufacturing.

Whether they acknowledge it or not, high school students’ career choices are swayed by their teachers’ and guidance counselors’ opinions and suggestions. Based on old ideas about what manufacturing is and media reports that paint a gloomy picture for the industry in the US, many teachers and counselors have steered students away from jobs in manufacturing. The “Makin’ It In Michigan” initiative was created to get the word out about the great manufacturing jobs that are available today and those that will be available tomorrow.

It is a goal of the Upper Peninsula Regional Industrial Manufacturing Skills Alliance (UP-RIMSA) to educate high school students on the fact that manufacturing is alive and evolving in Michigan. It is still a huge part of Michigan’s economy, and it will continue to be well into the future. According to the US Department of Labor, many sectors of manufacturing are growing and need additional employees. In fact, the skilled trades are looking at a serious labor shortage in the near future. The skilled trades, along with manufacturing, offer high-paying jobs, great benefits and excellent retirement packages.

Through this initiative, 33 school presentations are scheduled across the Upper Peninsula. Local representatives from the manufacturing sector, UP-RIMSA and Michigan Works! The Job Force Board are sending the message to students, teachers and parents that manufacturing is alive and well in the UP.

To learn more about UP-RIMSA or “Makin’ It In Michigan,” please contact Holly Peoples at (906) 789-0558 xt.215.